REGISTERED No. M 4345

MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1943 No. 6

FIELD-MARSHAL SMUTS

Turning point, not the end

WIPE from your minds any illusion that the war is nearing its end. Some people may even think it unnecessary to train and prepare for what might not come, but I am convinced that the hardest and bloodiest battles of the war lie ahead. The war has rolled back into Europe where the final victorious blows will be struck and South African troops will be there at the end, as they were at the beginning. We are standing at the turning point of the war, not at the end. You must return, not only with victory, but with peace in your hands

FIELD-MARSHAL SMUTS, *Prime Minister of South Africa, addressing South African and Rhodesian troops in Egypt*

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INDIA AFTER THE WAR

"We all are anxious to see, after the war, an era of determined effort to raise the Indian standard of living, and I have no doubt that the work of the Central Health Advisory Board will be of great assistance to Provincial Governments in preparing their post-war planning programmes in the public health field.

One of the main questions you have to consider at the present meeting is planning for this post-war development. Health administration, if it is to achieve any substantial results, demands a considered programme, and any attempt to deal piecemeal with the many and varied problems involved can but lead to a dissipation of effort, and of financial resources.

I would like to emphasise again the importance of securing, as our towns expand, that their housing and sanitation schemes are prepared on the right lines."

—H.E. LORD LINLITHGOW, *in a farewell message to the Central Advisory Board of Health, on Monday (October 4).*

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INDIA'S GREAT WAR EFFORT

"Though there was no conscription for Indians, there had never been any dearth of volunteers. The Indian defence forces to-day totalled very nearly two millions. Nearly half a million troops drawn from all parts of India had served overseas since the war started. Voluntary recruitment now averaged 55,000 monthly. The proportion of Indian officers to British officers in India's army was now about 35 per cent and was increasing. Personnel serving the Royal Indian Navy was now ten times greater than at the outbreak of the war. The navy also had many more ships. The Indian Air Force personnel had increased 50 times since September 1939 and aircraft strength had risen by 600 per cent. India's contribution to Allied effort in the field of supply had been prodigious and contributed substantially to the success in North Africa."

—MAJOR-GENERAL G. NOBLE MOLESWORTH, *Former Deputy Chief of Staff in India, in a speech to the East India Association, on October 4.*

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TIME NOT FAR OFF—

"The United States Tenth Air Force has been preparing the ground for the coming Allied push into Burma. The formation of the South-East Asia Command, and the appointment of Lord Louis Mountbatten as the Allied Commander, are a definite indication that the time is not far off when our enemy will feel the weight of these preparations. Our job has been to prevent the Japanese from making preparations to withstand the forthcoming Allied assault. We believe we have succeeded, and are succeeding, in doing just that. Our operations are the first phase of that offensive."

—BRIGADIER-GENERAL HOWARD DAVIDSON, *Commanding General of the Tenth United States Air Force, said at a Press Conference on Sunday, October 3, at New Delhi.*

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The Retreat in Russia: Goebbels' New Theory

THE continuing retreat of the Germans on the Russian front has compelled Dr. Goebbels to evolve the new theory of "Mobile Defence" to explain away the reverses. It is now claimed that what the Germans are trying to do is only to exhaust the Russians by inflicting heavy losses while German forces concentrate their power on the shortened line by abandoning useless territory. In accordance with this claim, a Berlin broadcast in English said on September 29 that the Bolshevik losses in dead and wounded since the beginning of the summer battle amounted to two million men, while the German losses were "disproportionately slight"! Two days earlier, Lord Haw-Haw, the notorious Berlin radio commentator, laid stress on this line of propaganda in his weekly talk in English. Broadcasting on September 26, he said,

"I must say that, in my opinion, the most important factor of all is the extremely disproportionate Soviet losses. All the German movements have been carried out according to plan. Despite heavy attacks, the enemy has been entirely unable to derange them. They have been affected with the minimum of casualties whilst, on the other hand, the Bolsheviks have had to pay a fantastic price for every inch of ground that they have succeeded in recovering. We have heard, from time to time, of the numerical superiority at the disposal of the Soviets. We have heard how they have flung great masses of men and material against the German lines. In my opinion, however, based not only on surmise, but upon a rational review of established facts, this summer's campaign has done much to reduce the Soviet preponderance in mere numbers and bulk of material. German strategy in the East during this year has, I believe, been based on the principle that, in one way or another, the strength of the enemy must be whittled away, that his striking power must be reduced, and that any advantages which he has enjoyed must be eliminated. Whether these objectives were to be gained by advancing to the Urals, or by falling back on the Dnieper, was a question—and must be a question—of secondary importance."

WE have quoted at some length from the Berlin talk, because it gives more or less a clear insight into the trend of German propaganda of the new theory of "Mobile Defence." As usual, the exaggeration of Soviet losses is intended to sidetrack public attention from the retreat of the "invincible" army of Hitler! It is strange that, after all the bombastic boasts and blowing of trumpets of Nazi strength, Lord Haw-Haw should come down to the level of saying that it was a matter of secondary importance whether the Nazis advanced to Urals or fell back on the Dnieper! It has since been announced (October, 5) by Captain Ludwig Sertorius, the German Overseas News Service military commentator, that the German Command has decided on the Dnieper line as the general line to end the "disengaging movements."

IT is interesting to note that new synonyms have been added to the word "retreat", in German propaganda. The retreats are variously described as "disengaging movements", "elastic strategy", "retreat according to plan", "withdrawal from certain positions", "comprehensive readjustment of the front", "shortened lines of communication", and so on. These words show, not so much evidence of the Nazi striking power in Russia claimed to be intact, but of the glossing over of serious reverses before the numerically superior Red Army.

IT is very often amusing to see to what straits the underlings of Goebbels' department are driven to in commenting on inconvenient and unavoidable facts. They give the impression, however, they want to admit even inconvenient facts, but, soon after, try to wriggle out of that position by words which seek to camouflage that intention. For instance, in the broadcast to which we have referred, Lord Haw-Haw says,

"The great expenses of Soviet territory gained by the German forces allowed ample scope for manoeuvre and for elastic tactics. I do not deny that however excellent the justification, the giving up of ground is in itself no occasion for celebration or exhortation. Far be it from me to speak of glorious and masterly retreats. But, on the other hand, the British people themselves have good reason to understand the value of a timely withdrawal. When their forces have had to withdraw, it has usually been under conditions of disorder, rout, and disaster. But to-day, both the German forces and the German people are fully aware that, on the Eastern Front, there is no question of a retreat in the customary meaning of the term. There is merely a process of orderly, disciplined, calculated, deliberate disengagement, which will give the German defences during the coming winter, not only the character of impregnability, but also the advantage of shortened lines of communication."

[*See fifth page bottom.*

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Recent U-boat Attack—New Pack in the Atlantic. The recent attack of U-boats on Allied convoys in the Atlantic, details of which were published in last Saturday's (Oct. 2) newspapers, recalls Mr. CHURCHILL's statement in the House of Commons on September 21 that though no Allied vessels had been sunk by U-boats in the Atlantic for the previous months, a new pack was on the hunt again. Experienced seamen survivors from that U-boat attack state that it was comparatively unsuccessful. According to *Reuter's* Special Correspondent, the loss of three vessels in a convoy battle is not regarded in authoritative circles as in any way exceptional. An officer says, "If the Germans can't do better than that after re-equipping their U-boats for four months, we don't have to worry very much."

Let us have a look-back at the lull in the Battle of the Atlantic and see what German spokesmen themselves said about it. Five months ago (May 5), the German Naval Commentator Vice-Admiral LUETZOW said in a broadcast from Berlin:

> "The enemy has considerably improved instruments for locating U-boats at sea. It is not to be hoped that the submarine successes will mount steadily."

Towards the end of that month (May 29), Berlin's home commentator, HANS FRITSCHE, said:

> "News of the results of our U-boat struggle is once again coming in only sparsely."

* * * * *

Dr. Goebbels' Philosophy of the Lull—Luetzow on Hunted Hunters. And how did Dr. GOEBBELS himself explain the philosophy of the lull? He said on June 5:

> "The periods of our greatest U-boat successes are apt to be followed by temporary phases of lesser success."

A month afterwards (July 2), a Berlin announcer told his Spanish listeners:

> "To-day convoys are escorted by a belt of corvettes or frigates, with air protection all around. Thus submarines are forced to dive and lose speed, as well as leave their attacking positions. Bombs from air-craft and depth-charges from escorting vessels make approach very difficult. It has become very much harder to attack a convoy."

How much explaining-away the Nazis had to do will be further clear from the fact that Vice-Admiral LUETZOW devoted an entire broadcast talk of 15 minutes' duration to explain how the hunting U-boats were themselves hunted from the moment they left their bases.

The Premier pointed out that no merchant vessel was sunk by enemy action in the North Atlantic and that shipping losses for August 1943 were the lowest since the United States entered the war. He drew attention to the fact that since January of this year, the merchant fleet of the United Nations had been increased by more than 6,000,000 tons and that soon all the losses suffered by the United Nations would have been replaced. In spite of "the revolution effected in our position at sea," he said "a new herd of U-boats" had been coming into the Atlantic in the past week or so, and a renewal of the conflict had already begun.

* * * * *

Hitler's "Principal Weapon" and its decreasing returns. In a broadcast on July 10, the German Naval Commentator, said;

> "The difficulty for the submarine is indicated by the fact that the field of view of the surfaced U-boat is eight times smaller than that of the escort of the enemy convoy with its destroyers and aircraft. The more frequently the submarine is compelled to submerge and thus to travel at a diminished speed, the greater are the chances of a convoy to sail past her unmolested."

But this was not what German leaders used to say in the past. They boasted of the efficacy of the U-boat and its great successes. Last year HITLER declared that the U-boat was the "principal weapon" against Britain. He said on April 26, 1942:

> "What our U-boats are capable of accomplishing will be continually shown more clearly month by month."

Let us take the last five months and compare the German claims for that period with those of the previous year and see how HITLER's month-by-month accomplishment was only in the direction of the decreasing returns of the U-boat. We give below a comparison of the monthly claims broadcast from Berlin in 1942 and 1943:—

Number of ships claimed sunk.

Month.	1942.	1943.
April	99	63
May	140	76
June	156	31
July	128	94
August	125	70
Total (5 months) ..	648	334

THE GOOD NEIGHBOUR

The fool has said in his heart
"Who is my neighbour ? Am I
My brother's keeper ?"
And he would stand apart
Lest he plunge deep and deeper
In the world's agony.

Fool, stand and look around
With an unblinkered eye
And see your island,
A patch of unflooded ground,
A dwindling piece of high land,
Not long to remain dry.

And all around the storm
Sweeps trees and houses down
In weltering water.
Can you alone be warm ?
Will your beach stay the slaughter
While all the neighbours drown ?

When you go out to plough
You seek your neighbour's aid
And hire his cattle.
Can you deny him now
Because you shudder at battle ?
Are you prudent or afraid ?

Each man that walks the earth
And draws his breath in air
Is, Fool, your neighbour.
Will you or not, his mirth
His sorrows and his labour
Are yours to hear and share.

The Chinese coolie's pain,
The Polish peasant's cry,
The airman's glory
Are burden and refrain
To your own tedious story
And weave the tapestry

In which you too must be
A most inglorious part
Unless you labour
To be great in great company
And cry "He is my neighbour
Who has a courageous heart."

—R.G.

MR. CHURCHILL IN QUEBEC

Mr. Churchill on the steps of the Castle Frontenac giving the " V " sign to the crowd that gathered to greet him. To the left of Mr. Churchill is Mr. C. D. Howe, Canadian Minister of Supply, and to the right Mr. William MacKenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada.

These claims relate to successes by aircraft and surface-craft as well as undersea-craft. Let us take the figures claimed for the U-boats only. The German claim for June 1942 of U-boats sinkings was 132 vessels, but for June 1943 it was only 20. Berlin claims to have sunk 111 vessels in August 1942, but in the same month this year its own figure was only 15 !

* * * * *

Success of Anti-U-boat Measures.

This may be taken as an admission of the success of anti-U-boat measures for the past five months. It may be recalled that in the three months from May 1, 1943, to July 31, 1943, more than 90 U-boats were destroyed. In connection with the invasion of Sicily 2,700 vessels were employed but our total losses amounted to only 80,000 tons. Two facts clearly emerge from these figures. One is that one-fifth of the undersea-fleet of the enemy has been wiped out at a speed which substantially exceeds their replacement capacity. And the other is, as against great seaborne invasion, U-boats cannot do anything.

THE RETREAT IN RUSSIA: GOEBBELS' NEW THEORY—(*Continued from page* 3)

IT will be seen from this that Lord Haw-Haw has, while denying an attempt at justifying or glorifying the German retreats, sought to do the very thing which he began by denying. The funniest part of his broadcast is as follows :—

" The more we contemplate the war in the East the greater reason we have to conclude that striking power is more important than mere space. Many false comparisons have been drawn between the German campaigns of this war in Russia and that of Napoleon in 1812. Napoleon failed not because he was unable to advance but because he was unable to draw back at the right time."

BUT jugglery of words cannot disguise the hard realities on the Russian front. The fact that the Germans are losing men, material and equipment to the Red Army in considerable quantities shows, not any advantage of shortening lines, but of the terrible effects of the sledge-hammer blows of the Red Army. Referring to these, President Roosevelt said in his message to the United States Congress last month,

" The Russians have forced the greatest military reverses since Napoleon's retreat in 1812."

AS regards the shortening of the line itself, the Moscow radio said on September 22,

" How ridiculous are German arguments regarding the voluntary withdrawal of their troops ! It is clear to everyone that if the front line is being shortened for the Germans, it is also being shortened for the Red Army."

ACCORDING to military experts, a shorter line favours a retreating army when that line has better, rear and lateral communications behind it, than the line of the opposing army. How can the Germans claim that they are retreating to such a line ? For though their communications westwards may be good, those eastwards are definitely bad.

IN all the verbiage of propaganda regarding their retreats, the Germans seem to make a tacit admission that the outlook is definitely gloomy, and this is clear from Dr. Goebbels' speech last Sunday at the Berlin Sports Palace.

ITALIAN CAMPAIGN: EXAMPLE OF AMPHIBIOUS WARFARE

THE Italian campaign is proving to be an example of modern amphibious warfare at its best—first planned and developed by the British in 1940.

This type of warfare combines two important factors: (*a*) ability to concentrate quickly the maximum force in the most important area; (*b*) ability to establish a foothold quickly on vital strategic points far from but related to the most important area.

The first factor has made possible the consolidation of the Salerno bridgehead. At the moment the problem is largely one of logistics. Vast supplies have to be unloaded and bases created for the Fifth Army so that the Allied troops can begin their onslaught against the enemy defending Naples.

It is pointed out that the control of the sea makes the unloading operation possible while the control of the air makes it secure.

Although an extended and important battle is taking place, the necessity to build up supplies causes London commentators to consider that the Press and agency reports that "a vast offensive" has already begun against the enemy are overdrawn.

Meanwhile the Allied air forces are hammering away at the German lines and communications. It appears that in spite of their bitter experience in North Africa, the Germans once more seem to have committed themselves to conducting a retreat in the face of a vastly superior air power.

Looking towards the future, it is not altogether unlikely that once our supplies are built up, we shall see a repetition of Rommel's North African retreat, this time up the west coast of Italy and probably at a lower rate owing to the hilly nature of the country.

The likelihood of such a retreat (and the likelihood of its being very damaging to the Germans) is strengthened by the hold the Allies have gained on Sardinia and Corsica. As soon as the air bases on these islands can be staffed, equipped and maintained, they will menace the whole stretch of German communications from Genoa to Rome. It is significant that so close are the islands to vital railways and roads of Italy's west coast that there is no single stretch which cannot be reached, not only by escorted day bombers but by fighter bombers—with their effective range of about 150 miles—which have proved so valuable in disrupting communications. The chief Sardinian bases are at Cagliari, Elmas and Decimomanu. The chief Corsican bases are at Bastia and Calvi.

But Sardinia and Corsica look north as well as east. Their ports can be used as jumping off points for an amphibious operation directed at North Italy or the south of France. While it is impossible that they can be so used until vast and lengthy preparations have been made and equally impossible to say that the Allied plan even envisages this, the German General Staff in arranging its defensive dispositions must always reckon with the possibility. More than ever, it will be necessary to keep a large force of the wehrmacht tied up in North Italy ready to counter any threat which might develop.

Great significance is attached to the ease with which the Allies "picked-up" the islands. It is one of the clearest signs of the absolute inability of the Germans to be strong at all vital points, especially when their communications depend on sea and air power.

It is clear that the Allied amphibious warfare has established powerful armies in South Italy and also bases in Sardinia and Corsica which will threaten the Germans from the West. But this is not all. In the east of Italy, across the Adriatic Sea, Yugoslav guerillas set another problem to the German General Staff. So does the resistance in North Italy itself.

London commentators emphasise that none of the many factors listed above can be regarded in isolation. They must be regarded as interlocking parts of the onslaught against the "underbelly."

Given that the vital strategic area for the Germans is Italy north of the Po, it is clear that many outposts have been driven in swiftly and decisively. But it would be over-optimistic to think that once the main German resistance is encountered, fighting will be anything but hard and progress slow.

SALERNO IN RETROSPECT

By MAJOR-GENERAL SIR CHARLES GWYNN

THE reasons behind the bitter fighting at Salerno should not be attributed solely to the nature of the terrain. It must have been as clear to the Germans as it was to observers that the Allies were preparing to land near Naples; and the proclamation of Badoglio's surrender suggested that the zero hour was imminent.

The air bombardment of the Naples area was bound to reveal the Allied intentions. It did not, of course, indicate the exact point and hour of landing though the conditions of the terrain probably give few alternative attack points. The possibilities of surprise were, therefore, mainly limited to the exact time of the landing.

What could not be foreseen was the degree of resistance the Germans were prepared to offer for it was certainly doubtful whether they would be willing to risk large forces so far south.

That they were fully prepared and had elected to concentrate reserves to oppose the landings is, however, not surprising for they must have been well aware that a landing force is vulnerable to counter-attacks until it has secured a bridgehead extensive enough to admit full deployment of the invading force, including its air component.

Professional opinion recognizes what the uninstructed public opinion may not have fully grasped—that the establishment of an adequate bridgehead and the subsequent debouchment from it present more difficulties than does an initial landing on the beaches which with modern equipment makes an easier operation than the past.

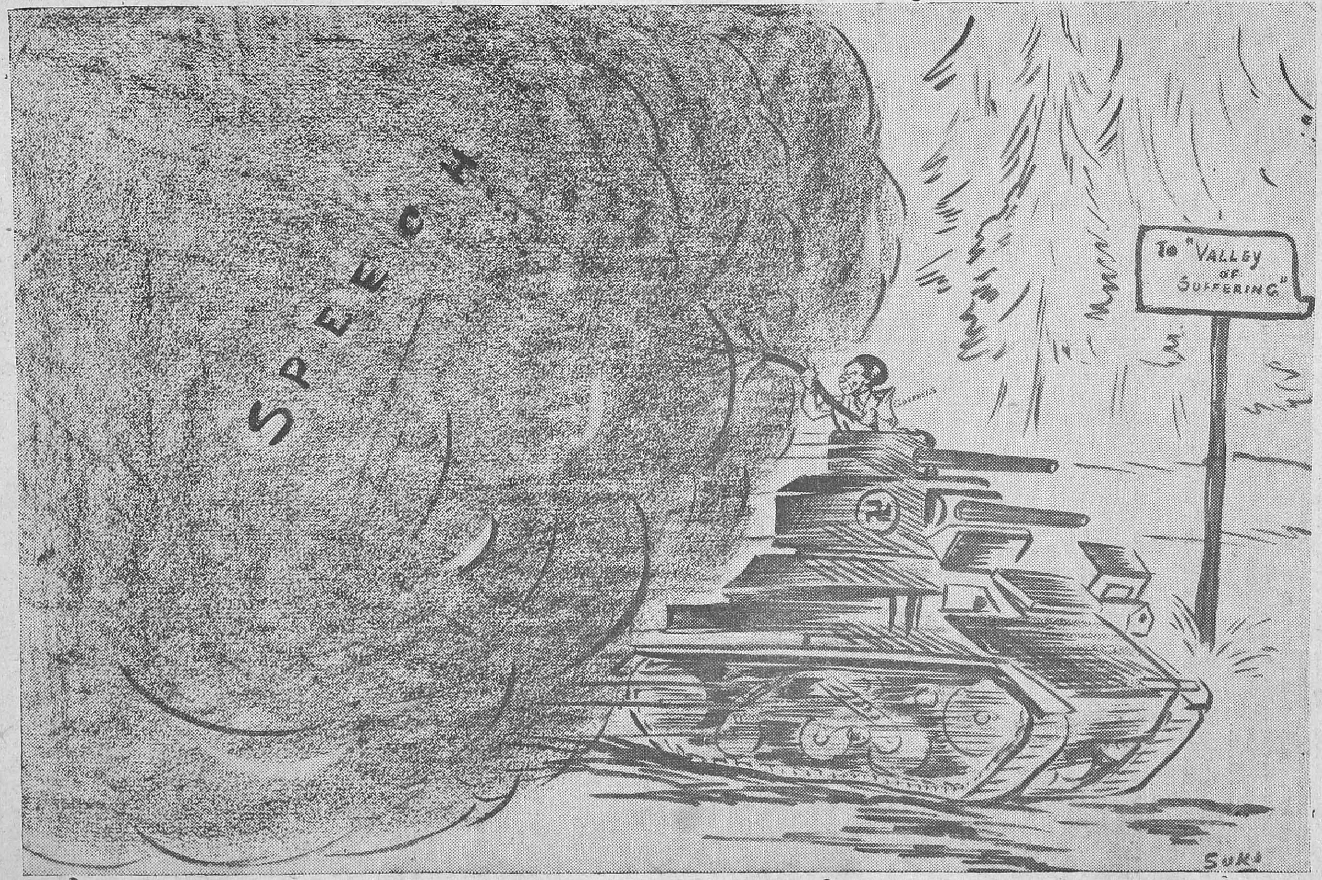
Experience in North Africa, Sicily and Reggio, because there was no formidable counter-attack, threw little light on the real difficulties of landing and facing opposition, although they revealed the immense complexity of the preparation necessary. In Sicily, the surprise achieved and the weakness of the Italian opposition combined to facilitate admirably the prepared operation and tended to obscure the difficulties that might have been encountered. Obviously, the difficulties encountered at Salerno were intensified by the fact that the landing took place almost beyond the extreme range of Allied fighter aircraft. That enabled the Germans to take full advantage of the policy they had pursued of husbanding their air strength.

FOUR SEPTEMBER SPEECHES

"The leaders of four nations appraised the war during September in important messages. President Roosevelt delivered a message to Congress on September 17th. Prime Minister Churchill addressed the House of Commons on September 21st. Hitler broadcast to the German people on September 10th. Tojo addressed the Japanese people on September 22nd . . . . The fortunes of war are inexorably reflected in the words of these four men. Two speak from the rising strength of their cause and their nations' allies. The other two, Hitler and Tojo, speak of a last stand defence, of new measures to force the homefronts to fight on, of yielding in 'elastic' retreats. They speak as widely separated, lonely partners in doom."

—*James S. Hart.*

COVERING UP THE RETREAT



In a speech at a harvest thanksgiving in the Berlin Sports Palace on Sunday (October 3) Goebbels referred to "the deep valley of suffering" through which the Germans had to pass. Meanwhile, he is covering up the retreat under a smoke-screen of rhetoric on the "disengagement movements of the past few weeks"!

—*Specially drawn for the* Madras War Review.

FRANCE'S SECRET FIGHT

By DANIEL MARITHE

OF the underground resistance to the enemy in France even the best-informed observer can seldom perceive more than a few apparently unconnected instances. There is an impenetrable mystery about the various groups in the movement. Relations between two groups may be severed by members taken prisoner or killed. It is hard to follow the life of any one of them or to discern a collective existence. No "war correspondent" can follow this kind of warfare.

The reporter living at a *poste de commande* would not see much. Agents come in—people of all sorts, rich and poor. They are seen separately by the leaders, they exchange microscopic papers, sewn inside the lining or a pleat of a garment, for a list of instructions, or sometimes, tiny letters which are explained to them. The man—or woman—goes his way . . . that is all. There is little talking at the *poste*. They work and they classify. A girl secretary comes in to ask an address. It is produced from the files, deciphered, and she has to commit it to memory. A look-out comes in, breathless. The Gestapo or the police are at the street corner. As though by magic, the lilliputian files disappear into a suitcase which is bundled out of sight. There is a hiding-place for the typewriters. There is a moment of tension. They wait, prepared to flee or to fight, as the turn of affairs may dictate. They gossip . . . Presently the All-Clear is given. The files reappear. Work is resumed . . .

This may be going on in a chateau, or, more often, in a humble dwelling-house, in town or in country. Nothing more is to be seen at a *poste de commande*. The dossiers, were they stolen, would reveal nothing. It would be the work of a lifetime to decode these puzzle-letters with their blurred sketches, these fantastically labelled files, these messages in which "the green ape advises the tom-cat to close the hen-house." There is nothing here for the journalist.

He wastes no more time then at the *poste*. He might follow the fortunes of an instructor in sabotage. There are a hundred different types. One may be an officer who in mufti looks like a stage detective (for the real detectives look like innocent civilians). Another has been a motor mechanic, another a wine merchant, another a spectacled engineer. The journalist following on their heels will be able to piece little together. He will knock at many different doors, most often the humblest. He may overhear instructions which are always the same.

Of the story of the people he visits he will learn nothing, for the laws of the resistance forbid too close an interrogation of these friends *en passage*. But in all eyes he will read the same passion. He will meet only the bravest Frenchmen. We know, though we blink at the fact, that there are others. The lukewarm, or if you like it better, the ignorant, are to be found in every nation. But we can swear that in France today they are in the minority.

Our reporter may give his attention to "schools" or to "operations." Here again, for the observer nothing can be less interesting than the Secret War. The schools are not at all like schools. All you will find is a cellar or a barn with a man instructing two others at most. As for operations, even were they explained to the observer, they would remain without dramatic interest to him. After a silent walk by night the tired journalist suddenly loses sight of his companions. They soon return, and motion him to be silent. Next day, very little is said. The local newspaper omits to mention that the objective has been blown up. The reporter picks up a rumour that the German sentries have been very properly shot.

WAR OF SILENCE

This is a war of silence and waiting. Of episodes visible to any but the actors, there is none. But here are two sample reports, from the top and the bottom of the picture.

Commissaire Fox invites General Dignac into an office as hideous as any French administrative office can well be.

"General," he says "be good enough to read this denunciation, which requires us to arrest you."

The general reads that he is the author of listeners' notes of the foreign wireless, that he has prepared a scheme of mobilization against Germany, and other charges of less importance. He considers, then asks, "What am I to say to this? There is no proof . . ."

"There is the deposition of a young man recently arrested while carrying a packet of listeners' notes."

"And he spoke of me?"

"He did."

The general is genuinely astonished. "My dear commissaire," he says. "I shall say nothing if you try such methods with me. This young man, whoever he may be, has not spoken of me. This is all very childish. I have directed a good many Information Services. You are an official of the *Surveillance du Territoire*. You know very well that such things are done only by those new to the game."

Somewhat disconcerted, Commissaire Fox suggests:

"And let us suppose, general, that you are unwittingly directing those new to the game . . . ?"

"That won't do," replies Dignac. "I am not one of them and new hands wouldn't come to me, and so—tear it up, commissaire! I have read it. I declare that I have made no listeners' notes and no mobilization scheme. Is that good enough?"

"Quite so. But what is your opinion of those who do these things?"

"That is a leading question."

"Very good, general."

"My view is that you can judge these things only by taking particular cases. Give me an example and I will give you my answer."

"Very well," says the commissaire. "Let us take the niece of an officer. She is very young, she is enthusiastic, she dislikes the Germans—"

"So do I," says the general. "Don't you?"

The sharpness of the rejoinder puts the policeman out of countenance. He attempts a smile.

"Well, this young lady has an idea that everyone does not listen in to the British wireless and so she does all she can to let young people know what is being said by our ex-allies."

"Our ex—what?"

"Allies," repeats the official slowly, "and—"

"And this young lady is called Gaby and she lives in my house. Is that it?"

The police officer smiles, still embarrassed.

"I was reluctant to say that."

"Quite. You wanted me to say it. But that is not a confession. I have heard of these listeners' notes. I rather wondered whether Gaby was interested in these things. She is very young. But I don't know. Do you consider this is sufficient reason for arresting an officer seventy years of age, fourteen times wounded, Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour?"

The commissaire is obviously put out. "I would like to propose another question, general. This time from you to me."

"As a policeman?"

The police officer draws himself up and stands to attention.

"Captain Fox, of the counter-espionage, at your orders, general."

Dignac smiles. They speak in a low tone. The commissaire's typist, in the next room, has stopped tapping her machine, but does not overhear them. The general takes his leave.

"Sorry, commissaire, to have taken up your time."

"Now, do you feel better?"

A terrific blow shook the prisoner's head.

Noel, the sabotage instructor, remained dumb. His gaze was fixed, his mouth bleeding. The three brutes conducting the "examination" exchanged glances. One of them winked. They would see what could be "done by kindness."

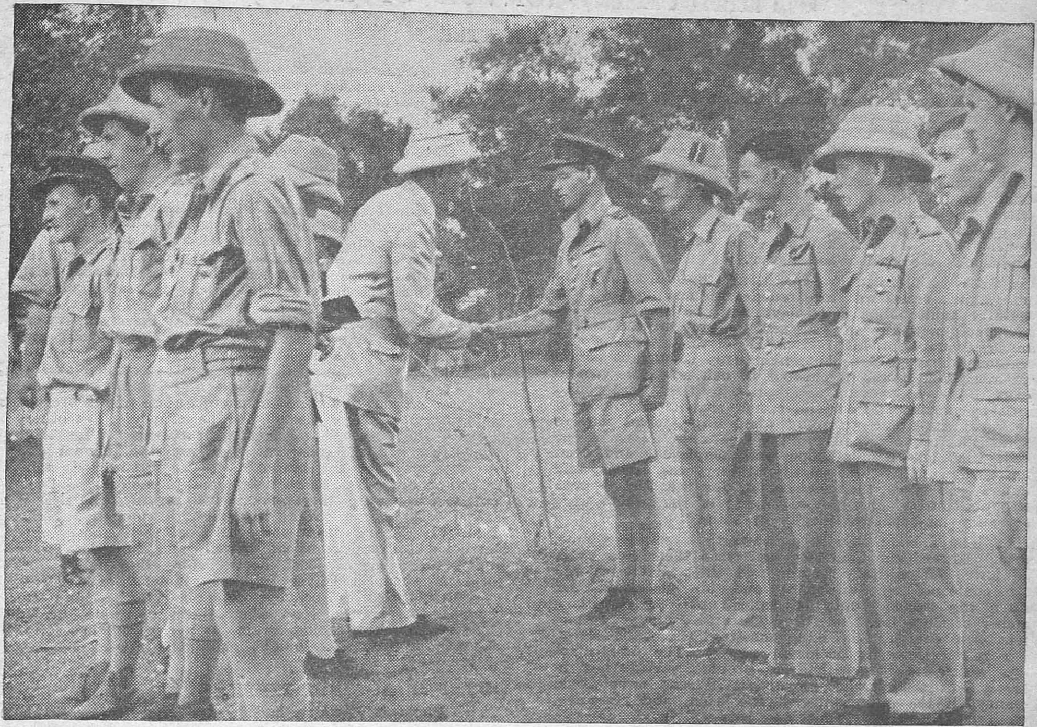
"Stop that. That's no way to behave. Now, my boy, take a rest. You don't fancy we like doing this, do you?"

Noel murmured.

"What?"

(*Continued on page* 12)

SOUTH INDIA BOMBING CONTESTS



High and low level bombing contests, the first to be organized in India, were held recently between Squadrons in South India for trophies presented by the Maharaja of Mysore. Photo shows His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, Governor of Madras, shaking hands with the pilot of one of the winning crews.

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His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope handing a trophy to the captain of the crew who won the low level competition. On the Governor's left is Air Commodore P. H. Mackworth, C.B.E., D.F.C., Air Officer Commanding, South India.

FATHER AND SON OF POSTHUMOUSLY HONOURED JAT OF THE INDIAN ARMY.—The second Jat of the Indian Army to be awarded the Victoria Cross, Company Havildar-Major Chhelu Ram made the supreme sacrifice showing almost superhuman bravery in action in North Africa. Jee Ram and 4-year-old Richpal Ram—father and son respectively of the late Company Havildar-Major Chhelu Ram, V.C., of the 4/6th Rajputana Rifles. Young Richpal Ram bears the same name as the first V.C. of the Regiment—Subedar Richpal Ram.

THE FIRST CONVOY OF ALL

By OWEN RUTTER

FOR more than a century after the Norman conquest English sea-borne trade had little need of protection, for William I and his successors, being Dukes of Normandy, controlled both sides of the Channel. These years of peace brought prosperity to English trade. The Narrow Seas were covered with ships carrying wool to the looms of the continent. The eastern and southern ports were crowded with vessels bringing the woven fabrics of Flanders and wine from the vineyards of Gascony and Aquitaine. Thus thriving commerce and a growing fleet of merchant ships to carry it laid the foundations of British sea power.

In 1204, King John lost Normandy to Philip Augustus and English trade was threatened with new perils. But whatever faults John may have had, he was equal to this emergency and set himself to give protection to merchant ships of his realm. He had a navy of his own—over fifty galleys—but, like many sovereigns before and after him, found it cheaper to call upon the coastal towns to provide vessels and crews, as they were bound to do by immemorial custom, rather than to fit and man the royal ships. It was only when large forces had to be transported, or when foreign squadrons had to be faced, that the King's ships were employed, and even then their function was mainly to carry the archers and soldiers who were the combatants, for sea tactics were little understood, and the sea fights of the period were in reality land battles fought in ships.

The King's chief sources of strength were the Cinque Ports. Edward the Confessor had freed them from rates and levies for military service and these privileges had been confirmed by William I and his successors. In return the barons might be called upon to furnish a number of ships for fifteen days' service every year upon their own charge, the King meeting the expenses if he required them for a longer period. The number of ships which each town had to provide varied, but in 1229 it was settled that Dover should send twenty-one, Romney, Hythe and Sandwich five each, and Hastings, Rye and Winchelsea twenty-one between them.

AN INVASION AVERTED

With the aid of this fleet of merchant auxiliaries John averted the threatened invasion of England by burning the French armada in the harbour of Damme in 1213, and three years later the mercantile marine enabled Hubert de Burgh to win England's first important naval engagement, the Battle of Dover Straits, when he dispersed the great fleet which Eustace the Monk was bringing to the assistance of the French, who were forced to evacuate the temporary footing they had secured in south-eastern England. But while the King depended on the merchant ships as auxiliaries to keep command of the sea, he might in time of peace hire out his own vessels for trading voyages.

The forty-first article of Magna Carta safeguarded the rights of merchants by entitling them to safe-conduct in and out of English ports and by permitting them to buy and sell without civil tolls, except in time of war. The lawlessness of the country during the Barons' war, however, had destroyed the security of sea-borne trade and the shipowners of the Cinque Ports began to take individual reprisal against the vessels trading from Flanders and the Baltic, Bayonne and Spain. These reprisals came to be legalized by "letters of marque" which the King issued to merchants whose goods had been taken at sea by foreign ships. It was not long before they were used as authority for the indiscriminate plundering of foreign merchant shipping and the masters who held them engaged in that form of legalized commerce-raiding which in later days became known as privateering.

This early form of economic warfare gave merchant seamen practice in fighting their ships, and on the outbreak of the Hundred Years War in 1338, most of the combatant fleet was composed of merchant vessels. Edward III had twenty-five ships of his own, but he no longer had to rely upon the Cinque Ports for his auxiliaries, for the mercantile marine had increased to such an extent that he was able to levy them from every port in the kingdom. Their total strength was 1,100 ships, divided into the South and North Fleets, and seventy of them were 100 tons and upwards: in the Elizabethan period a ship of 100 tons was still considered an efficient fighting unit. They were equipped with forecastles and after-castles to convert them into fighting vessels.

Edward III had sufficient knowledge of sea strategy to realize—as every great seaman since his day has realized—that before an army of invasion can be transported across the sea, the defending fleet must be defeated, and he understood that the proper exercise of sea power is not to await invasion but to seek out the enemy fleet off its own coast or in its own ports. He accordingly collected a large fleet to attack the armada which Philip VI of France had assembled in the harbour of Sluys at the mouth of the Scheldt—so vast a number of ships, as Froissart records, that their masts seemed like a great wood. Not one in twenty of the English fleet was a royal ship, and it was largely thanks to his mercantile marine that Edward destroyed the French fleet, thereby obtaining command of the Channel, averting once more the danger of invasion, and gaining the right to style himself King of the Seas.

In all her history, however, England has rarely, if ever, had complete command of the sea, and during the reign of Edward III commerce destruction became so serious that the King became gravely concerned for the safety of the ships engaged in the wine trade with Gascony. He therefore forbade them to sail independently, and in 1336, when it was found that this order was being evaded, with the result that more ships were taken "to the shame, disgrace and peril of the king and his realm," he ordered every seaworthy vessel west of the Thames to be manned, armed and victualled and to assemble at Portsmouth so that "the ships which were going to Gascony for wine and merchandise might proceed and return in large fleets" to be convoyed by others on both the outward and homeward passages "for their own safety and the conservation of his royal honour and the advantage of the nation." The escort vessels were to attack any ship which attempted to molest the fleet, and masters were threatened with severe penalties if they disobeyed the order to sail in company. Ships bound for Gascony from ports north of the Thames were instructed to rendezvous at Orwell, and surveyors were appointed to inspect both fleets before they sailed. At the same time Sir Oliver Ingham, seneschal of Gascony, was advised that the convoys were about to sail and was directed to arrange that when the ships were loaded those at Bordeaux should await the arrival of those from Bayonne so that they might make the return passage in company.

DEFENCE AGAINST PIRATES

The Hanseatic League had been formed a century earlier for the protection of the Baltic trade and the Venetians were in the habit of sending their galleys to sea in company as a defence against pirates, but Edward III's orders appear to have been the first recorded arrangements to be made in England for convoy protected by State escort. Doubtless, many of the escort vessels were themselves traders, but the convoy was under the charge of royal officers and its passage was regarded as a naval operation.

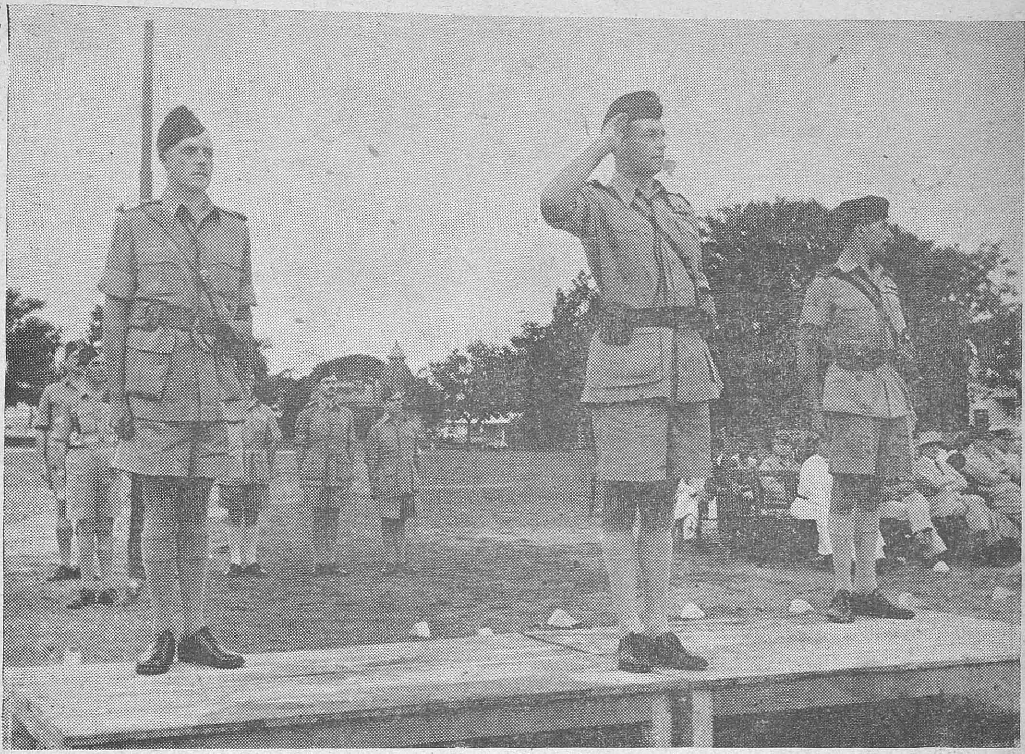
Once started, the system was continued, the convoys sailing in December and returning in January or February, the fleets numbering between one and two hundred sail. In 1347, to meet the expense of the escort, the King imposed an additional import tax of two shillings per tun of wine, undertaking that this revenue should be devoted to the upkeep of the escort vessels, and the extra levy seems to have been cheerfully paid by the wine merchants, who by that time had come to recognize the advantage of sailing in large fleets accompanied by armed vessels. Even so, many ships fell a prey to pirates or to the enemy, so that in 1359 the King's Council was constrained to impose a further tax of six pence in the pound on the value of all imports and exports for the special purpose of maintaining a fleet at sea to protect commerce.

From a proclamation dated 1372, informing all "sheriffs, mayors, bailiffs, and officers, owners, masters and mariners of ships" that fifteen ships and "five barges furnished for war" were to escort the wine fleets, it is clear that these escort vessels were not the King's ships, but armed merchantmen, whose owners were recompensed for their trouble and expense out of the two shillings levy on every tun of wine safely convoyed, less any profit they might make by freight on wine they carried themselves, or by the capture of merchandise from the enemy. The system was, therefore, designed to be self-supporting, but the convoy was under the command of the King's "well-beloved and trusty Admirals at sea," Philip de Courtenay and William de Neville, who appear to have acted in the capacities of the modern convoy commodore and senior escort officer.

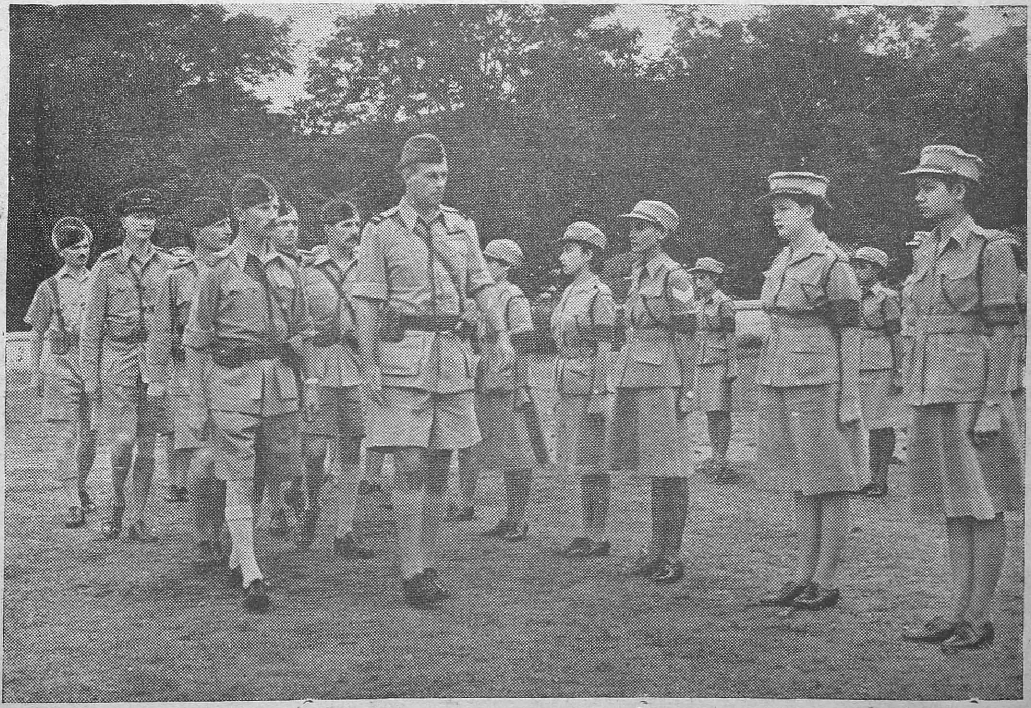
Even these precautions did not prevent occasional disaster, however, and in 1375 a homeward-bound convoy of thirty-nine ships belonging to Yarmouth, Bristol, Southampton, and Ipswich and other ports was attacked by Spanish galleys, which either captured or destroyed the whole fleet, the loss being estimated at £18,000, the equivalent of £120,000 in present values. Losses such as these had to be faced and, so far from weakening the Council's or the merchants' belief in the principle of convoy, served to strengthen the protection given to sea-borne trade until it was extended to the consignments of wool to the Continent, the officer responsible being known by the sonorous title of The Wafter of the Wool Fleet.

Condensed from Red Ensign.

"BATTLE OF BRITAIN" ANNIVERSARY: R.A.F. PARADE AT BANGALORE



Air Commodore P. H. Mackworth, C.B.E., D.F.C., Air Officer Commanding, South India, taking the salute during the march-past of airmen and W.A.C.I.'s.



Air Commodore P. H. Mackworth, C.B.E., D.F.C., inspecting W.A.C.I.'s at the Parade.

MASTERY of MEDITERRANEAN

By WICKHAM STEED

IN the annals of this war the second week of September, 1943, will remain memorable. The capitulation of Italy broke the Rome-Berlin Axis. The Italian fleet surrendered to the Allies. Marshal Badoglio and King Victor Emmanuel escaped from Rome, which the Germans seized together with Milan, Turin and other Italian cities. In Rome, German troops ostentatiously mounted guard over the Vatican City and the Pope.

The British Eighth Army occupied Taranto, Bari and other Italian ports amid popular enthusiasm. Between Salerno and Naples, the Allied forces met with fierce German resistance. Hitler rescued Mussolini from imprisonment and proclaimed him head of the new Fascist Government in Italy.

In the Balkans, Italian troops fraternised with Yugoslav, Albanian and Greek guerillas against the Germans. Yugoslav patriots conquered long stretches of the Dalmatian coast. Russian armies captured Stalino, liberated the Don Basin and took Briansk on their Central front; Konotop and Bakhmach in the Ukraine and Mariupol on the Sea of Azov. The Japanese lost Salamaua in New Guinea.

Hitler's address to the German people breathed a gloomy apprehension relieved only by the anger that Mussolini should have been treated as a common criminal. I interpret his rescue of Mussolini rather as an effort to encourage other agents and quislings than as a hope that any Fascist organization can now help Germany to hold Italy. The Italians will aid the Allied armies to wrest Italy from German hands. Hitler has added Italian hatred to the forces ranged against him.

Nevertheless, Germany will strive desperately to retain portions of the Italian peninsula. Only thus can she hope to postpone collapse in south-eastern Europe. The Italian naval surrender has made the Allies undisputed masters of the whole Mediterranean outside the Aegean Sea. The Ionian Sea and the Adriatic are in their hands. Access to the Greek and Yugoslav shores is within their reach.

Bulgaria, Rumania and Hungary foresee German defeat and are prevented only by German troops from following the Italian example. The massive Russian progress towards the Crimea and the Ukraine increases their disquietude.

The satisfaction among the Allies over the Italian surrender alters nothing in the grimness of their determination to prosecute the war intensely until both Berlin and Tokyo shall capitulate after total defeat.

FRANCE'S SECRET FIGHT

(*Continued from page* 8)

"I would rather be in my position than in yours?" he said.

The irony passed unperceived. They laid the prisoner on a bench.

"Now all you have to do is to tell us the name of the bloke with whom you were at the station, and then you may go."

"His name, I think, was Dubois."

"He is pulling our legs," shouted the first inspector. One of the brutes gripped the prisoner's hand.

"And you shook his hand like this?"

The prisoner groaned. The other inspector looked at his watch.

"We are wasting our time. We have been fooling about for two hours. Bring in the vice."

They went to get it. Meanwhile, the inspector addressed the prisoner.

"We do not like going so far as this. It is painful. But we are officials and our duty is to make you speak. What you are about to undergo is terribly painful. It is progressive. Don't judge by the first sensations. They are bearable. But as the pressure is increased, the pain drives you mad. Then you will speak. As all the others have."

The inspector blew the smoke of his cigarette into the prisoner's face.

"Why not speak now? It would be better for everybody."

His eye was filled with the spittle which his victim still had strength enough to project. He wiped it away.

"I would wring your neck, you miserable—" he muttered. "But I have something that you will appreciate more."

The vice was brought in. As they bound the victim, almost unconscious, to a table and applied the horrible vice, someone knocked at the door. The smart police officer opened it and clicked his heels. A German officer appeared. Words were exchanged in an undertone.

"Wherever he goes? Very good, sir."

The unhappy workman was released. He collapsed on the stones outside the door. So he lay for hours. At last he dragged himself to his feet and looked round. Where he was to go he knew not. He knew he would be followed. When night fell he moved. He walked as far as the Seine close by. As he was about to lie down to sleep under a bridge, he caught sight of a shadow. He saw the shape pass and re-pass. He guessed that the unknown was waiting close by. The hours dragged on. He dozed, then awoke.

Dawn broke. The quays awoke to life. The outline of the watcher became clear. The workman saw him. A thousand confused thoughts of vengeance passed through the brain of the instructor. To kill was not enough. He had no weapons and his guardian angel was not likely to be alone. He saw two more Germans. In his head he went through all the addresses of his friends and feared to compromise them.

This lasted three days. He was losing blood. Every day he got a minute amount of food by begging. His pursuers followed in relays after breakfasting in comfort. They knew positively that this man was acquainted with the chiefs of the resistance movement. They could afford to be patient. Noel slept every night under the same bridge. One rainy night he and his guardian angel vanished.

The river has not given them up.

—Condensed from La France Libre, *London.*

MAHARATTA REGATTA

"Combine business with pleasure wherever possible" is a good Army motto which a Mahratta Battalion stationed in S. India put into practice recently. They were allotted some assault boats for "river-crossing" training, and after finishing their exercise on a large tank near the camp, decided to seize the opportunity and stage a "regatta."

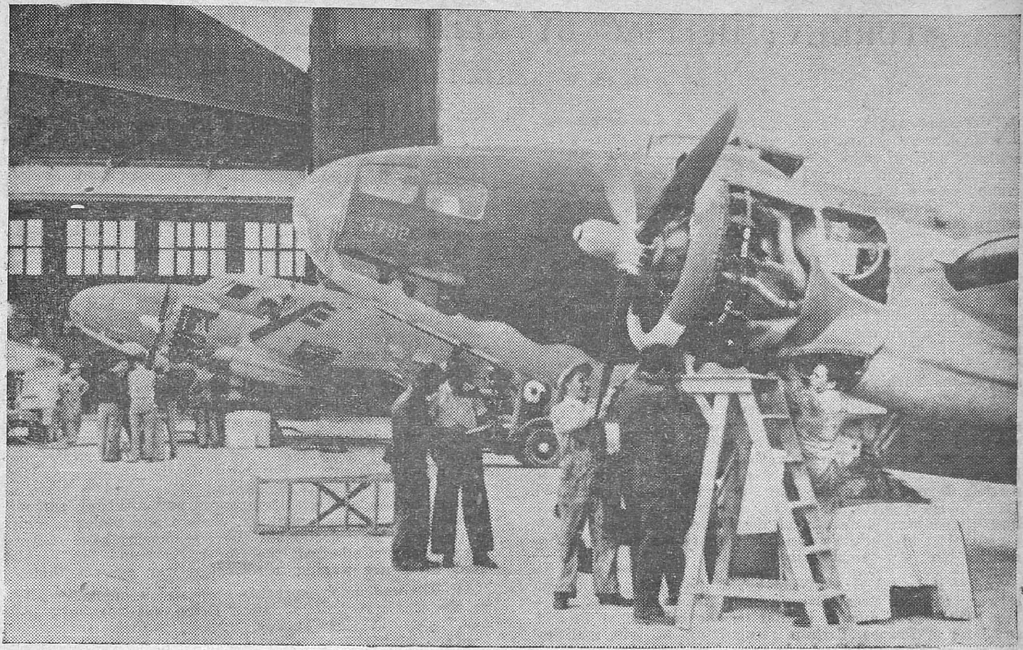
They had a boat race, in which an officers' team was finally beaten—though not discharged—by the fiercely concerted paddling of a Company "eight."

Then there was a water polo tournament, with "no holds barred" in which enthusiasm made up for any lack of experience. And finally a relay race, in which distances up to 200 yards were swum in excellent time—for the Mahrattas come from a land of tanks, and many of them are expert swimmers.

But all were agreed that the "hit of the show" occurred a little latter. The umpires' boat, which also marked the turning point of the boat race, was anchored by an iron picket. This came adrift, and one of the officers—Capt. Thomson, of Edinburgh and China—volunteered to retrieve it.

He made a mighty dive from the side of the boat only to reappear a moment later, covered with mud from head to foot, and standing in about three feet of water. He had dived straight into a (fortunately) soft sandbank.

The crowd roared:



The Royal Air Force Ferry Service flies American built aircraft across the Atlantic to Britain and has become the world's greatest air line organization. Men of many nationalities co-operate to take the planes across. The Royal Air Force Ferry Command takes over from the Ferry Command of the United States Army bomber aircraft to be flown to Britain. The crews return to America by a ferry service. Diplomatic mail, vital war freight and Government priority passengers are carried. When the war is over, commercial lines will probably send planes over the same Atlantic routes. Our picture shows the Chief Engineer, record sheet in hand, conferring with an Inspector while the ground crew services a Lockheed Hudson.

ROLE OF CARRIERS IN THE PACIFIC WAR

By PETER MASEFIELD

FUNDAMENTAL changes—for the better—have taken place on the Pacific front, the full significance of which is only just beginning to show. The Japanese offensive strategy appears now to be halted and to be turning to an uneasy defence.

Undoubtedly, one of the prime causes for this change has been the rise of the Allied power in the Far East. In that respect the development of the Pacific war resembles that in the West—the United Nations are building up local air mastery and then gradually widening its sphere of influence.

JAPANESE AIR-POWER OVERRATED

As everyone knows Japan began the war in the Pacific with undisputed air superiority which in the absence of anything but woefully weak Allied air forces led at first to an over-estimation of the Japanese air power. That time has passed, and now that we have large forces opposed to the Japanese, we are more nearly able to assess their true worth. The fact is that Japanese aircraft seem to be of second-rate quality. The same is true of aircrews. All in all, the Japanese do not appear to be up to the standard of the Germans and in quantity they cannot match the air forces now being sent to the Pacific.

Air war in the Pacific, now that the Allies have initiative, has two offensive aspects. The two aspects are naval and military, or more properly sea-going and land-based. If ever there was a place for naval air-power it is the Pacific. Its wide waters are now perhaps the only place in the world for the use of aircraft-carriers in fleet actions as opposed to their complementary and very important function as guardians of supply routes across the Atlantic.

In the Pacific, the role of the carrier is not only defensive in bringing up reinforcements secure from enemy attack but also offensive in that carriers can carry air war right to the enemy's doorstep. In that respect in major actions no carrier should be considered any more as an individual unit. For success, carriers must operate together at least two at a time, one supporting the other just as day bombers protect each other in formation during raids over enemy territory.

SUPERIORITY OF ALLIED CARRIERS

Fortunately, many new powerful carriers have been added to the fleet of the United Nations during the past few months, some large and many smaller of the converted type. Of the bigger ships at least seven 25,000-tonners have been added to the United States Navy since the beginning of 1942.

Nor have British shipyards been idle in reinforcing the Royal Navy. Together, Britain and America should be able to bring into action the most powerful fleet of carriers ever assembled and although the Japanese have made desperate efforts to meet this threat by their own construction the superiority of flying and fighting equipment on Allied carriers should prove decisive.

In fact, the aircraft now going to sea with Allied carriers are not only much superior to the standard types in action when the Pacific war began, but also much more nearly equal of similar types of land-based Allied aircraft. In the Royal Navy, for instance, the Supermarine Seafire-fighter in its latest version is little inferior to the equivalent mark of the Spitfire from which it was developed. Some slight reduction in performance is unavoidable because of the necessary addition of the deck landing hook and for vision folding wings which adds a small amount of weight. But naval fliers have shown that there is no unsurmountable difficulty in flying such high performance aircraft from a carrier's deck.

CARRIERS' DUAL PACIFIC ROLE

Carrier-based aircraft in the Pacific area can be seen to have as their chief functions the destruction of enemy naval forces wherever they may be found and close support of Allied landings on what are at present Japanese-held outposts. The sinking of *Roma* in the Mediterranean showed again how vulnerable battleships are to air attack when without an air escort.

ANNIVERSARY—BUT NO CELEBRATION!

"The signing of the tripartite pact by Japan, Germany and Italy three years ago was a gesture the futility of which grows more obvious each day. The signatory nations lacked several of the essentials for a successful pact. First, they lacked a common aim. Each was intent on its own scheme of conquest, including the eventual conquest of the other two partners. Second, they lacked honour. Third, they lacked the ability to render effective aid to their partner nations, although there was urgent need for such aid."

—WALTER H. JUDD, *United States Representative from Minnesota.*

TURKEY: HELPING BY KEEPING OUT OF WAR

By SIR WYNDHAM DEEDES

NOT long ago a cartoon appeared in a certain paper depicting Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey and other neutrals sitting on a fence wondering on which side to come down. The cartoonist, by including Turkey in this group, showed his ignorance. Turkey is not and never has been a "neutral sitting on the fence," waiting on events before making a decision.

As long ago as March 1940, after a brief visit to Turkey, I satisfied myself that the Turkish Government and people were wholeheartedly favourable to the cause of the Allies and I prophesied that come what may, Turkey would not budge from that position unless attacked by the Axis Powers in which case she would defend herself to the last man. I found no reason to change my opinion after the fall of France, although that disaster might well have shaken the Turkish confidence.

Turkey's "neutrality" had never been on par with that of other neutrals. Turkey in the early stages of the war exhorted the Balkan countries to resist Nazi pressure and it was no fault of Turkey's that a Balkan bloc against Hitler was not formed. Nor, as I have already said, has she left Germany in doubt that she would fight if attacked. The Turkish Ambassador in London has frequently asserted that his country is an ally of the United Nations and not a neutral; and Turkey's attitude throughout the war fully entitles her to be so described.

And if it be asked: "What about the treaty of alliance between France, Great Britain and Turkey signed in October 1939?" the answer is that on the collapse of Poland and later of France, Britain, recognizing the grim realities of the situation and Turkey's unpreparedness for war and her (Great Britain's) inability at that time to arm her, agreed that Turkey while abiding by her treaty obligations should not be pressed to execute them. Bearing in mind her inability at that time to defend herself, a serious situation would have arisen for the Allies if Turkey in 1940 had gone to war with Germany. For a Germany, in command of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus and the naval bases on the West Coast of Asia Minor and in position to advance through Asia Minor against Syria and Iraq, would have menaced our whole position in the Middle East whereas Turkey, as a buffer Staete, has played an important part in the development of our Middle East strategy.

But although Turkish sympathies in this war have never been in doubt or in jeopardy, it is in her own interests to remain out of the war if possible. The country has, for years, been impoverished by war and mis-Government culminating in the first world war and the war of liberation. Years of peace are now needed to enable the country to recover.

The reforms of Ataturk were radical and far-reaching indeed and there cannot be an example in history where a country has been subjected to great changes, political, economic and social, in so short a space of time. The Republic has taken the place of autocracy and the secular State that of theocracy; women, who yesterday were confined to the harem, now play a leading part in national life with every profession open to them; the capital has been removed from the Bosphorus to the uplands of Anatolia which represents something more than a physical change; brigandage has disappeared and although endemic diseases like typhus, smallpox, cholera and malaria, which in the past have decimated the population, have not yet been wholly eliminated, the Government and the Turkish Red Cross are waging a relentless war against them.

All that and much more has been and is being done and on the whole well done, but "Rome was not built in a day," nor will New Turkey.

This much then is clear that Turkey has observed her treaty obligations with this country in the spirit and has been exonerated by us from discharging them in the letter; that it would not have been in the interest of either party if—up to date—Turkey had been involved in the war.

What will happen in the future, I do not know. All I do know is that we can place complete confidence in our "ally."

LAST MONTH . . . —

3RD SEP.—*LANDING IN ITALY.*—The Eighth Army landed in the Italian mainland and this marked the beginning of the invasion of Italy, the weakest link in the Axis. This assault on the European mainland coincided with the fourth anniversary of the war and revealed the increased strength of the Allies and their resolve to choose to strike the Axis wherever they can.

ITALY SURRENDERS.—Two months after the fall of Mussolini, the Italian Government surrendered unconditionally. Badoglio who succeeded the Duce recognized the impossibility of continuing an unequal struggle against the overwhelming power of the Allies and carried on negotiations for peace and finally requested an armistice from General Eisenhower which was granted. This surrender made Balkan Satellites to shiver and Allies can attack the heart of German homeland from Italian bases.

14TH SEP.—*BRYANSK.*—The City of Bryansk which first, in this war, became famous by the great twin battle of Vyazma and Bryansk in the Autumn of 1941, was evacuated by Germans. The fall of Bryansk opened a way for the Red Army to throw the whole German line from Smolensk to Kurty back to the Dnieper river. It has remained in German hands since the 1st October of Russian War. It is one of the main communications centre.

SALAMUA.—This base held by Japanese for more than 18 months fell to Allied forces. This closed the first stage of General MacArthur's New Guinea offensive which began on July 1.

16TH SEP.—*NOVOROSSISK.*—The main Black Sea naval base after Sebastopol and the chief escape port for nine German and Rumanian divisions—was taken in a brilliant land operation.

17TH SEP.—*SARDINIA.*—The second largest and strategically very important island in the Mediterranean was completely evacuated by the Germans. This will serve as an Allied base.

18TH SEP.—*LAE.*—Another Jap base in New Guinea, 50 miles from Salamua, was captured. Its occupation more or less cleared the Huon Gulf of the Japanese. Strategically and tactically the capture of Lae has driven a wedge into the double chain of Jap defensive strong points stretching all the way from Burma to the east to the Solomons. It caused much headache to the Japanese Command.

25TH SEP.—*SMOLENSK.*—Germany's greatest bastion on the central front and at one time Hitler's headquarters fell to the Red Army after 25 months of German occupation. Its "invulnerable" defences were pounded. It was made Hitler's base for an attack on Moscow.

28TH SEP.—*FOGGIA.*—The greatest Italian air base was captured. Its strategic value is limitless. It enables Allied air forces to bomb Berlin and north German cities from south and vital targets in the Balkan States and gives control over the Adriatic.

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SAPPERS AND MINERS—OUR FIGHTING ENGINEERS

The speedy construction of suitable and secure bridges is a vital feat of engineering in time of war. Devices vary according to the rivers' depth, width and currents.

Photo shows bridge-launching derrick being heaved into position.

Rowing section of a pontoon bridge into position across a wide river.

The pontoon bridge now assembled, a loaded lorry crosses to the opposite bank.

WEEKLY JOTTINGS

By "CHRONICLER"

RUSSIA—THE WEALTH OF UKRAINE—THE BALKANS—ITALY—THE MEDITERRANEAN—SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC—CHINA.

RUSSIA

A strong German defence base on the left bank of the river Dnieper, Kremenchug was captured by the Russian army on the 30th September under General Konev. In the last stand which the German army made here, thousands of Germans were drowned in trying to retreat across the river as the Soviet bombers and guns rained death and devastation on boats, rafts and pontoons, overcrowded with exhausted and defeated Germans. At the height of a three-days' battle Russian tanks charged through the centre of the city, cut it in two, and it was then that the Germans started the retreat over the Dnieper.

Kremenchug, captured by the Germans on 14th September 1941, was the last German foothold on the eastern bank of the Dnieper. It is a large railway junction, eighty miles north-west of Dniepropetrovsk. There the railways from Kharkov and Bryansk converge, and crossing the Dnieper, they lead to a net work of lines in Western Ukraine.

The stage is now set for the final battle for Kiev, the mother of Russian cities, and capital of the Ukraine, while it has also been the bastion of the German Dnieper defence line. It stands over 300 feet high on Dnieper's steep western bank. North of Kiev, the east bank of the river is in Russian hands for a stretch of over hundred miles to the point where the Sosh river enters the Dnieper. To the south, separate sectors of the bank between Kiev and Zaporoshe, totalling approximately about 200 miles, are also firmly occupied by the Russians. Russian forces are also on the outskirts of Zaporoshe.

Fierce battles are developing for the key town of Gomel, 120 miles north of Kiev. Gomel is a Russian district with its capital city of Gomel on the river Sosh. Many strong points protecting the city are already being hammered on their flanks and several have been almost surrounded. Fighting here is extremely heavy on the immediate approaches of the city. The Russian wedge which is being driven between the two strong points of Gomel on the one side, and Moghilev on the river Dnieper in White Russia between Minsk and Chernigov on the other, has taken the Red Army much nearer to Zhlobin in White Russia, a key railway junction on the way to Minsk. Zhlobin stands on the railway line from Leningrad to the south, and its capture by the Russians would sever the Germans' last remaining direct railway link between their northern and southern armies. Kirchev, another town in White Russia, 58 miles south-east of Moghilev, a railway junction, has also been captured by the Red Army.

The Russian offensive is equally strong in the Vitebsk direction. It is a Russian district adjoining the Baltic provinces, with its capital town Vitebsk on the river Duna, 354 miles west of Moscow. Gomel and Vitebsk are the German White Russian lines, and after the fall of Smolensk which opened the way to White Russia, the whole German central front is being smashed from its position and the gateway is being opened to Poland and the Baltic. The fall of Gomel will cut away the hinge of the central and southern fronts, while the fall of Vitebsk, the northern hinge of the line controlling the great Leningrad-Moscow railway, will bring to life the whole northern front up to Leningrad. The German Command is, however, making a tremendous effort to save Vitebsk, Moghilev, Orsha and Gomel, four bastions in their new line protecting the heart of White Russia. An Order "Stand Fast on the Fatherland's Lifeline at all Costs" has been issued to all German Divisions in the Vitebsk, Moghilev and Gomel areas.

In the far south of the Russian front the Russians have bombed the Rumanian Black Sea port of Constanza and the Kerch Strait wherefrom the enemy troops are trying to escape to the Crimea as the Russians advance westward in the Taman Peninsula. Fierce battles are continuing at Zaporoshe and Melitopol, which are storming the German defences covering their imperilled forces in the Crimea and within the Dnieper bend. A later German communique states that the whole of the Taman peninsula has been evacuated.

Starting the present summer offensive on the 3rd July 1943 the Russian army has been fighting continuously for the last ninety days and more and advancing on nine fronts. The result has been very satisfactory from the Russian point of view, inasmuch as the whole of Russia to the east of the Dnieper is now completely free from the Germans.

Very roughly and in its own way the meandering Dnieper marks the frontier between the third of the Ukraine that is mainly agricultural, and the rest two-thirds that is mainly industrial. The first part is still wealthy in its corn fields and beet fields, and with its black earth belt, is one of the most bountiful territories in the world. Indeed the industrial prizes of the Eastern Ukraine are more valuable than the corn of the western portion. The eastern area produces three-fifths of all the Soviet pig-iron, three-fifths of all the iron ore, three-fifths of the coal, three quarters of the aluminium, and nearly half of the rolled metal of Russia. To have conquered the Ukraine and to have retained its possession would have meant for Germans their own America at their back-door. The land between the Dnieper on the west and the Don on the east is an area of marvellous mineral riches which the Russians originally with American and British help, and more lately by their own efforts, have been developing and exploiting in the best possible manner.

On the Dnieper itself is the famous power station, said to be the most powerful electric station in the world. Originally known as *Dnieprostroi*, it is now called *Dnieproges*. For years it has captured the Russian imagination as the very symbol of their drive for industrialization. The Russian people eagerly followed the construction and growth of the great dam and the power house, and when the dam was completed and opened in 1936 there were concerts and dances and fire-works in all parts of the Union of Soviet Russia. The town in which this dam is located is *Zaporozhe* which has grown and improved considerably on account of this power station and it has a population of about a million inhabitants. The station supplied power for factories and homes of an industrial population of eighty lakhs. Further up the river are the two towns of *Dniepropetrovsk* and *Dnieprodzerzhinsk*, and these also have been of late expanding their factories on account of the power station.

This Dnieper region planned mainly for the future. More power was at hand than could be used for many years. There was more construction than production, although production was gradually on the increase. A hundred miles farther east there begins the far greater and far older established industrial area, based upon the Donbas coal fields which still provide well over half of all Russia's coal. One of the towns in this area is entirely new, *Kramatorsk*, with several thousand inhabitants and with what is claimed to be the largest metallurgical equipment in the world.

Kharkov, for some years the capital of the Ukraine, has now over 800,000 inhabitants. It looks like any other great industrial centre, grey and drab, and it produces large numbers of locomotives and tractors, together with heavy industrial and electrical equipment of all kinds. Voroshilograd is another great locomotive building centre. Kiev is yet another with a population of about 800,000 with its factories for machine tools and other important heavy equipments. *Kamenskoye* has its wagon building works; *Tokmak*, its plants for turbines and other electrical equipment; Gorlovka, its machine tool factory. Just outside the Ukranian frontier are Rostov-on-the-Don with its locomotive works and its great agricultural machinery factory, and Stalingrad with its tractor and automobile works. This industrial region of the Ukraine is second only to that of Moscow in the whole of Russia.

According to the latest news from the Russian front, the Germans have been completely driven to the west bank of the Dnieper, and the industrial region of the Ukraine is in the hands of the Russians. No doubt they have lost the great dam which they destroyed when it was likely to fall into German hands in the course of the first German offensive; but in spite of the material loss involved by its destruction Soviet Russia registered her sense of self-respect in seeing that the enemy should never be able to make use of it.

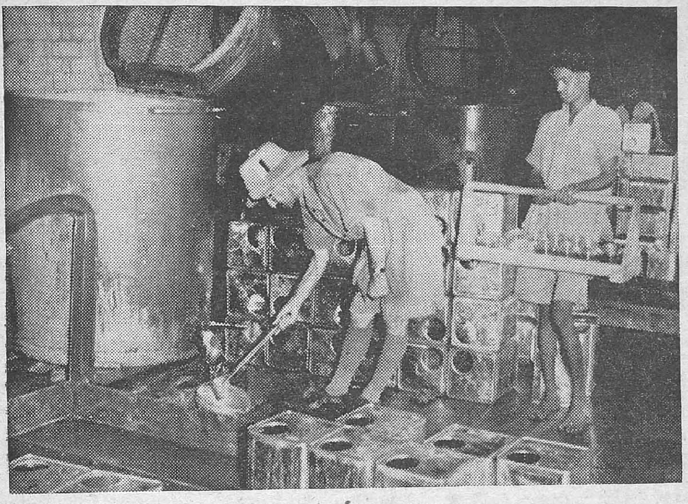
THE BALKANS

King Peter of Yugoslavia has set up his Government in Cairo after his return from London. This arrangement is made as a preliminary to his return to liberated Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav *Tchetniks* or Serb patriot bands are reported to have wrested control of a forty-mile section of the Upper Vardar valley in Southern Yugoslavia from the Bulgarians after very fierce mountain fighting. Bulgaria, it must be noted, is a country

(*Continued on page* 18)

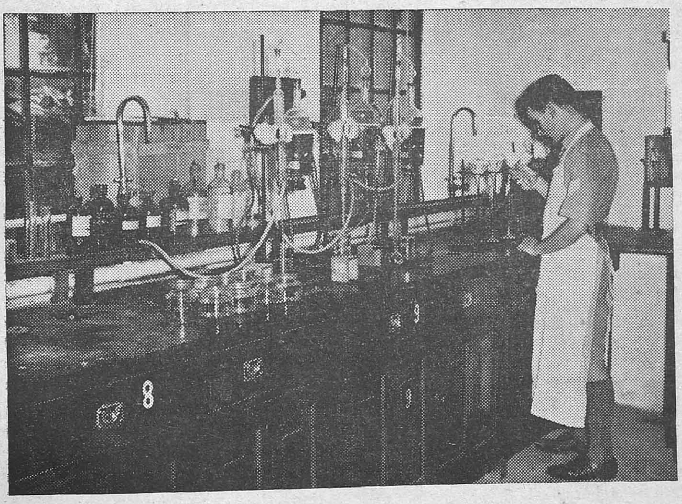
FOOD REQUIREMENTS OF INDIAN TROOPS—SUPPLY OF GHEE

Every precaution is being taken to see that Indian troops serving in this country and abroad are well looked after. Special attention is devoted to their food requirements. We publish below three photos which show, how in regard to ghee, one important item of diet of the Indian soldier efforts are made to supply the best quality.

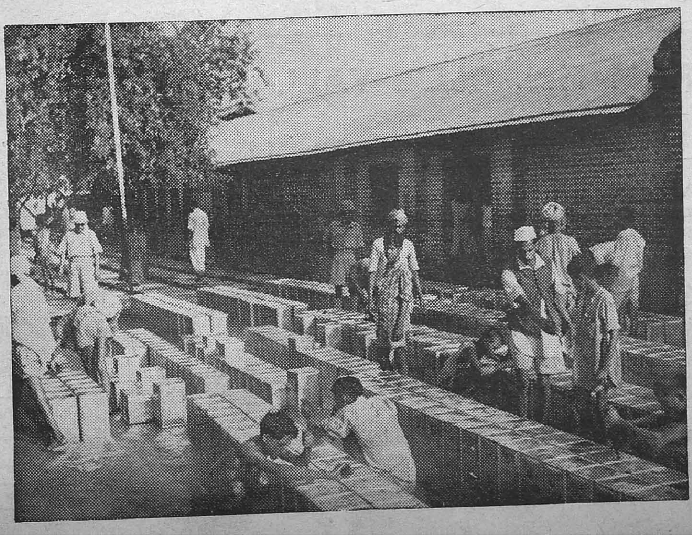


The army in India has established various centres where ghee is subjected to a purifying process and laboratory-tested before being distributed to the Indian army.

After the melting process, the ghee is heated in huge iron containers. Six tins are filled and a sample then taken for the laboratory test, which should represent the average density of the pan.



Analytical testing of the samples. Ghee differs according to the age of the supply-animal, its usual food, and the climate it has been accustomed to.



Melted, heated and tested. The tins filled, they are now sealed. The ghee is rich in quality, and pure.

WEEKLY JOTTINGS

(*Continued from page 16*)

which attacked Yugoslavia thrice, and the latter is not likely to rest content until the aggressor has been properly avenged. Another State with whom Yugoslavia has to square up old differences is Italy, and it is learnt that immediately after the fall of Mussolini the Yugoslav Government handed a note to the Allies outlining her post-war territorial claims against Italy. This was one of the last acts of the Trifunovitch Government which resigned on August 11, 1943. The note opens with a statement of general principles, expressing conviction that the victory of the United Nations will result not only in the full restoration of the independence and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia, but also in the liberation and reunion of all Yugoslavs within the boundary of their national State. Applying this principle to Italy the note says that every trace of Italian domination should be entirely and finally eliminated from the western coast of the Balkan peninsula, including all islands which belong ethnically and exclusively to Yugoslavia, Greece and Albania, and that the Italian rule should be restricted to the purely Italian ethnic area, and that Italy must be made to withdraw entirely from the Balkans and must not be permitted to retain under her control even the smallest piece of Balkan territory.

It is reported that Allied ships are landing food and ammunition for Yugoslav patriots on the Dalmation coast, and the Yugoslav forces, led by General Drago Mahailovitch, War Minister and Guerilla leader, are ready to begin fighting when the Allies give the promised signal.

ITALY

On the Italian front the Allies captured Naples on the 1st October and have now entered Benevento, after taking Frigento on the way. The German forces under General Kesselring are now falling back on Rome, while the Fifth Army has left Naples far behind and is pursuing and harassing the German forces. On the Adriatic coast the Eighth Army is pushing on swiftly beyond Lucera and Foggia is now thirty-five miles behind them. The Allies are advancing along the whole front and are fighting their way towards Rome from two directions.

In the course of a speech broadcast by the German Radio on October 3, Dr. Goebbels said, referring to the situation in Italy: "The fate of that country proves that nobody can swindle his way out of this war. This war is like a high speed express train and whoever tries to jump off breaks his neck. The longer the war for world-wide aims lasts, the harder its methods become. Never in history has war eased off in its second half."

THE MEDITERRANEAN

In the Western Mediterranean the Free French Army is making rapid advance in Corsica towards Bastia, a fortified seaport town of the island on the north-east coast. Corsica is a French island in the Mediterranean, with its capital Ajaccio, the birth place of Napoleon.

In the eastern basin of the Mediterranean a German offensive has started in the Dodecanese with a sea and air-borne attack against Cos, an island which was captured on the 22nd September by the combined Allied air operations.

SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC

In the South-west Pacific the Allied ground forces captured Finschhafen on the 2nd October. All organized enemy resistance has been overcome and the entire area is now in Allied hands. Finschhafen fell to the troops of the Ninth Australian Division. The capture of this place gives to General MacArthur's forces an important new advance base in northern New Guinea from which to hit at the Japanese still entrenched at Madang and Wewak. Finschhafen lies on the coast, about sixty miles above Lae. The investment of this base began immediately after the fall of Lae, the Australians landing six miles north of Finschhafen on 23rd September.

CHINA

A new Japanese drive has begun in the South-east Provinces of China. Enemy troops in Western Chekiang (a maritime province with its capital at Hangchow), Southern Kiang-Su (a maritime province with its capital at Chenkiang) and An-hwei provinces advanced on Chinese positions bringing up reinforcements. Allied bombers are attacking Japanese occupied places at Hankow (once a foreign settlement and port 700 miles from the mouth of the Yangtse) and Wuchang (also on the Yangtse opposite the foreign settlement of Hankow).

GARHWALI TROOPS GET A NEW THRILL

Members of a Garhwali Battalion stationed in South India are having a new experience. Arrangements have been made for parties of them to "go to town" from their camp at the week ends. The "town" is on the coast, and the first big attraction is—the sea!

Most of them have never seen it before, and the rush to the shore and subsequent gasps of amazement are quite a spectacle.

For many of them their journey from the north was an experience also—it was the first time they had seen, let alone travelled in a railway train.

On the other hand, there are things that most people would make a song and dance about which the Garhwalis take in their stride.

A squad were doing "discharger cup" training the other day. (For the uninitiated, a discharger cup is a fixture which enables a rifle to fire a handgrenade a distance of anything up to 200 yards.)

One of the men had put his grenade into the cup carelessly, with the result that the fuse was ignited. Jamedar Jagat Singh Rawat (who comes from Dhari, P.O. Dadamandi, in Garhwal) noticed something hissing.

He had about five seconds in which to act. If he left the grenade where it was, the rifle and most of the squad would be blown up. If he took it out and held it too long, there wouldn't be much left of him either.

He acted without a moment's hesitation, whipping the grenade out, hurling it as far away as he could, and shouting to the rest to "get down".

The squad ducked, the grenade exploded harmlessly, and they went on with their training, quite unperturbed!

A VISIT FROM Mrs. CLUBWALLA'S CANTEEN

Ask any Indian unit in the neighbourhood of Madras—"Has anything exciting happened lately?" and it's ten to one they'll reply—"Yes! We had a visit from Mrs. Clubwalla's Canteen!"

This mobile canteen has made a tremendous impression wherever it has gone. "They feed a whole Battalion in 15 minutes!" was one of the wondering comments on its organizers, who appeared to be bringing "manna from Heaven" to units situated in the "wilderness" whose contacts with the amenities of civilization are often few and far between.

Greatly appreciated also were the snakecharmer and conjurer who accompanied the canteen on its rounds. The latter's dancing wooden duck, which floats in a bowl of water, bobs up and down in time to music, and answers all manner of questions, aroused both amazement and mirth.

A Punjabi unit became practically hysterical when the duck, asked whom it would like to marry, appeared to meditate for some time, and finally nodded coyly to a bearded Sikh of particularly ferocious appearance.

But the little duck apparently knew better than to judge by outward appearances!

AT A BATTLE SCHOOL IN SOUTHERN INDIA.—After arduous training, troops stage realistic demonstration of various aspects of modern warfare in real battle conditions. It is the dress rehearsal of the real act. Now a truck has struck an enemy mine, casualties have occurred. The officer-in-charge shouts quick instructions.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

29TH SEP.—A post-war aviation conference of Britain and Dominions will be held in London shortly.

30TH SEP.—Royal Air Force burnt Bochum, the Ruhr coal basin.

The chairman of the United States War Production Board appealed for all-out production drive at a meeting in London.

1ST OCT.—Flying Fortresses from North Africa bombed Munich.

2ND OCT.—Hagen and Emden were attacked. British bombers were over Rhineland and Westphalia.

3RD OCT.—An alert was sounded in London and anti-aircraft guns went into action. A small number of enemy aircraft flew over parts of east and south-eastern England. There was cross-channel artillery due at midnight.

Munich was again raided. Objects in Ruhr and Rhineland were also bombed.

The Home Secretary Mr. Herbert Morrison said that some form of wartime control must continue even after peace to avoid social and economic catastrophe.

4TH OCT.—Kassel, Hanover and Frankfurt and objectives in Rhineland were bombed.

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Dudley Pound resigned due to serious illness and to his place of the First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff, Sir Andrew Cunningham succeeded.

5TH OCT.—Field Marshal Smuts, Prime Minister, arrived in London for consultations.

Frankfurt was again heavily raided.

There was slight enemy activity over East Anglia.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

29TH SEP.—President Roosevelt met Congressional "big four", Mr. Sam Rayburn, Senator Alben W. Barkley, Mr. John W. MacCormack and Vice-President Henry Wallace, and discussed manpower and post-war problems. Mr. Roosevelt announced that Lease-Lend Aid to the United Nations had reached a new record in August of 1,621 million dollars. He also denied reports about General George Mar hall. President had a meeting with the Pacific War Council.

The United States Secretary of War Mr. Stimson said that President Roosevelt refrained from interfering in any way with the War department in their choice of Generals.

The Secretary of State Mr. Cordell Hull informed his colleagues that he definitely expects to attend the Tripartite meeting. He indicated also that the venue might be changed from Moscow to London.

30TH SEP.—Seventeen merchantmen were launched from American shipyards.

1ST OCT.—President Roosevelt said that the Allies will have and share free air after the war.

Lease-Lend Administrator Mr. A. Harriman has been appointed United States' Ambassador to Russia.

2ND OCT.—Mr. Wendell Willkie expressed his willingness to run again for the presidency provided the Republican party adopted his ideas on domestic and foreign affairs.

Three Allied naval vessels were victims of recent convoy battle.

A Brazilian steamship was shelled by U-boat.

3RD OCT.—Matters likely to affect the immediate conduct of the war as well as the drafting of the final peace terms will be laid before a secret session of the United States.

The trial of officers in charge of Hawaii when Pearl Harbour was attacked was postponed.

Colonel Frank Knox declared that any assumption that war would be over before Christmas "was utterly unwarranted." He added, "we have made the first landing, but the hardest and costliest part of the war is still in front of us."

4TH OCT.—The new Soviet Ambassador to United States, M. Andrei Gromyko presented his credentials to President Roosevelt.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

29TH SEP.—Enemy railroad installations in Myotha, Magok, Tantabin and Jaunvtha were attacked by Tenth United States Air Force Bombers.

30TH SEP.—Ceylon Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve becomes part of the Royal Navy from to-morrow.

Royal Air Force planes attacked oil-refineries at Yanapa Chauk and barrack areas at Pakokku.

1ST OCT.—Thazi and Akyab were bombed.

2ND OCT.—United States bombers attacked Mongwa and Alon; Royal Air Force Beaufighters bombed a large Japanese steamer near Myingun; enemy installations at Gaungup were also hit.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

29TH SEP.—The Fifth Army entered the plains of Naples. Entire Sorrento Peninsula is now in Allied hands. Eighth Army captured Zapponetta on the Adriatic coast. Castellamere, Sioni and Nocra were occupied by the Allies. German forces evacuated Montero and Baronissi. Italy's position was stated to be that of a 'defeated enemy.'

Aerodromes in Greece and Aegean were hit by Royal Air Force. Piedicroce in Corsica was liberated.

Mussolini addressed the Cabinet of the New Fascist Republican Government.

The provisional capital of Badoglio Government was declared to be Bari.

30TH SEP.—Allied forces neared the suburbs of Naples. Reports were current that Germans had already abandoned Naples after destroying the city completely.

General Eisenhower conferred with Marshal Badoglio on military co-operation abroad a warship at Malta.

1ST OCT.—Troops of the Fifth Army entered Naples. The city was clear of German forces. Allies have captured Torre Anunziata.

Germans were forced to abandon their defence positions in Bastia.

2ND OCT.—The Eighth Army occupied San Severo, Lucera and Gargano. Targets in Rhodes islands were bombed. Advance towards Rome continued.

The Assistant Secretary of War, Mr. Robert P. Patterson predicted a major military move in Italy shortly.

3RD OCT.—The Allies have captured Benevento and Frigento. The Fifth Army harassed German forces which were retreating towards Rome.

King Victor Emmanuel in a broadcast deprecated Mussolini's attempts to set up a Government.

French forces captured Teghime Hill—the key to Bastia.

Germans launched a sea and air attack on Cos.

4TH OCT.—Eighth Army landed at Termoli; Motta and Montemiletto were captured.

Germans shot dead General Amico, Italian General Commanding in Albania, General Gonzaga, Commanding defences at Salerno.

According to a report Germans incorporated into Germancy the three Italian provinces of Bolzao, Trento and Belluno.

The French forces entered Bastia.

5TH OCT.—Marshal Kesserlings forces have withdrawn to the north from the Volturno line. Bartolomeo, Pomigliano, Capodichino and Montesarcheo were captured. Allied forces tightened the screws on the German flanks.

The Corsican campaign is virtually over.

Marshal Badoglio expressed his desire to base the new Government on democratic lines.

Preparations and concentration of troops for the invasion of Balkans are ahead.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

29TH SEP.—Fierce battles developed for Gomel. Kremenchug, Darnitsa and Vetka were captured by Russians in addition to the occupation of about 1,600 localities.

30TH SEP.—Powerful Red Army forces massed at key points on a 200 mile front to smash the whole German central front. All-round advancement was recorded. Krichev and 170 places were captured.

1ST OCT.—The battle for White Russia has neared its crisis. German troops retreated before Soviet drive on Vitebsk. Enemy troops made a desperate stand at Gomel. Fierce batles raged near Kiev. Chirkov and over 340 localities were captured.

2ND OCT.—German resistance stiffened in all sectors; tremendous artillery duels were reported.

3RD OCT.—Germans evacuted Taman; Russian drive in White Russia makes satisfactory progress.

Dr. Goebbels in a broadcast speech explained German retreat in Russia.

4TH OCT.—Russian forces pierced German defence lines and continued to progress in White Russia and other fronts. Soviet troops were only 30 miles from Mogilev.

5TH OCT.—Great wedges were driven into the German defences in the White Russia. The triple strongholds of Mogilev, Gomel and Vitebsk were menaced.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

29TH SEP.—Fighting between Hungarian and Rumanian frontier guards broke out.

30TH SEP.—Royal Air Force bombers damaged by bombing enemy communication lines in France and Holland.

King Peter of Yugoslavia admitted that at present he and his Government had no solution for internal disagreements of Yugoslavia but they were working for the common good of the country.

Stiff fighting between Yugoslav patriots and Germans at several key points throughout the land was reported.

Unrest among workers in Rumania spread widely and they refused to help building fortifications along the Black Sea coast though offered high wages.

1ST OCT.—Hitler's demand for more Hungarian troops for Police duties in White Russia has been refused.

2ND OCT.—Allied planes were over Rumania.

3RD OCT.—Allied bombers were over Paris. Airfields at Woensdrecht, Haamstedt, Amsterdam and Chipol were bombed.

4TH OCT.—Yugoslav Patriot army captured Tulsa and Bijelo Polze.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

30TH SEP.—The Spanish Government decided to release 665 political prisoners.

2ND OCT.—A Swiss communiqué announced that Swiss Anti-aircraft fire brought down one American Flying Fortress when a group of Fortresses fought a battle with German fighters over Swiss territory.

Arab delegation consisting of His Highness Amir Faisal, his brother and other members arrived at Washington.

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THE FAR EAST

29TH SEP.—Allied planes bombed Manus, Rooke and Munda islands. Wewak was attacked heavily. Barges in many centres were hit. Several stations in Solomons were also bombed.

Severe fighting continued on the East bank of Fu river. A Japanese tanker was sunk off Tongking.

30TH SEP.—British Naval and Air Mission for co-operation with the United States on Pacific fronts accompanied by the United States Officers will arrive shortly in Australia.

1ST OCT.—Japanese are attempting to evacuate Kolambangara.

2ND OCT.—A Jap destroyer and two merchantmen were sunk in the northern Solomons. A Jap submarine was also sunk.

United States planes from China attacked the Indo-China port of Haiphong.

3RD OCT.—Finschhafen was captured.

4TH OCT.—Brigadier R. D. Sutherland was killed in a plane accident.

5TH OCT.—Allied warships bombarded Japanese troops which attempted to escape to Vila. Forty enemy barges were sunk.

Japanese forces started a general retreat in Hsuancheng.

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS AND PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF WAR PUBLICITY, "VICTORY HOUSE", MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.